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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 20 September 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Intelmann ..... (Estonia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Statement by the Chairperson

1. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee's meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers. During the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, the Committee had used 77 per cent of its allocated conference resources and had lost 24 hours owing to late starting and early adjournment of meetings. Although the Committee had thus improved on its statistics for the fifty-ninth session, she hoped that it would be able to achieve a further improvement at the current session. In that connection, if there were few or no speakers inscribed for a particular meeting, the time and the conference services should be utilized either for negotiations or for meetings of interest groups.

2. She proposed that speakers should be limited to 10 minutes for the general debate and 7 minutes for statements made under individual agenda items. Longer statements should, if possible, be distributed in advance. Introductions by members of the Secretariat should also be limited to 10 minutes, and representatives of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes were explicitly requested to focus their statements on selected issues of concern to them.

3. The programme of work (A/C.2/61/L.1) was largely based on the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 58/316 and decision 58/553, as well as the recommendations of the bureaux of the Committee at the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the General Assembly. She drew attention to a letter from the President of the General Assembly on the allocation of agenda items to the Committee (A/C.2/61/1).

4. She wished to recall several important changes in working methods adopted by the Committee. Draft resolutions under the various agenda items would be negotiated and adopted by the Committee throughout the session, rather than at the end; informal negotiations would be held early in the session and, if the need arose, formal informals might be scheduled at the recommendation of the Bureau. Delegations were therefore requested to do their utmost to facilitate the adoption of draft resolutions by the deadlines recommended in document A/C.2/61/L.1; in particular, the appointment of facilitators and the tabling of draft resolutions must be completed on time. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/277, draft resolutions should be concise and action-oriented. Furthermore, decisions should be used as much as possible for issues of a procedural nature.

5. Lastly, in its resolutions 57/282, 59/275 and 60/257, the General Assembly had reiterated that under its agenda item 118, entitled "Programme planning", its Main Committees should include in their programme of work a review of those recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/61/16) which were relevant to their work and take appropriate action. The Assembly had decided to allocate to the Committee subprogramme 1 of programme 7 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009, entitled "Economic and social affairs", for its review and action. The Assembly had also decided to allocate to the Committee agenda item 110, entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on the Committee's tentative programme of work for the Assembly's sixty-second session.

6. She took it that the arrangements she had described were acceptable to the Committee.

7. *It was so decided.*

Organization of work (A/61/250 and A/C.2/61/L.1)

8. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the decisions taken by the General Assembly based on the recommendations contained in the first report of the General Committee (A/61/250) concerning the organization of work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, and to the suggested programme of work in document A/C.2/61/L.1. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was Friday, 1 December 2006. She took it that the Committee wished to approve its programme of work as contained in document A/C.2/61/L.1.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **Mr. Khan** (Director, Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination) said that his Division would provide substantive support to the Committee during the sixty-first session. In addition to submitting reports to the Committee, it would be holding a number of side events aimed at providing members with an alternative perspective on the agenda items allocated to the

Committee. A detailed list of the scheduled activities, which would include various panels and keynote addresses by prominent individuals, would be issued during the first week of October 2006.

11. **Mr. Mansour** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that while his delegation was in favour of holding such side events, it was important to ensure that, as a matter of principle, the various issues were approached in a balanced manner so that different sectors and regional perspectives and positions were reflected, especially with regard to energy.

12. **The Chairperson** said that the comments of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran would be taken into account. He should rest assured that the Bureau and the Secretariat had been focusing on a balanced approach in planning the various side events.

13. **Mr. Atiyanto** (Indonesia) said that his delegation was prepared to work in a constructive manner to resolve the various issues on the Committee's agenda. It was important that members should discuss ways of improving its work before the Committee began its substantive work, at its next meeting on 2 October 2006.

14. **Ms. Heikkilä** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union was ready to engage constructively in all the Committee's deliberations. The Bureau or the Secretariat might wish to issue a preliminary list of the draft resolutions to be put before the Committee.

15. **The Chairperson** said that the Chair would do its best to keep the Committee informed of the various draft resolutions put forward by delegations.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.